54 Action . FIR

Control: 22406

Rec'd: SEPTEMBER 28, 1962 10:38 AM

FROM: MOSCOW Info

SS G

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 794, SEPTEMBER 28, 1 PM SB

RTF

TOP DMD

TIME-LIFE CORRESPONDENT STEVENS HAS HAD QUERY RE DER SPIEGEL ARTICLE BY ONE JULES EPSTEIN APPARENTLY QUOTING ME EXTENSIVELY AS HAVING BRIEFED ALLIES ON ALLEGED PACKAGE DEAL ON BERLIN OFFERED BY GROMYKO TO SECRETARY RUSK BASED ON DISENGAGEMENT. QUERY SUGGESTED TIME PLANNING USE AS PEG FOR EXTENSIVE COVERAGE GERMAN-BERLIN QUESTION.

IN REPLY SPECIFIC QUESTION I DENIED ACCURACY OF ALLEGATIONS IN TELEGRAM AND STATED NO KNOWLEDGE REPORTED ARTICLE OR AUTHOR. ADDED, HOWEVER, ANY BRIEFING ALLIES SIMPLY PART MY FORMER DUTIES AND RECORDS AVAILABLE ONLY IN DEPT WHICH ALONE IN POSITION COMMENT. SUGGESTED ARTICLE AS DESCRIBED APPEARED BE RE-HASH SPECULATION IN GERMAN PRESS FOLLOWING RUSK-GROMYKO GENEVA TALKS, COMBINED WITH ELEMENTS VARIOUS SOVIET PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

KOHLE

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